FIGHTING CUBA, when not engaged in active hostilities. A good deal of blame has been thrown on the Cubans for

The General Aspect of the Cuban Question.

FROM DEFENSIVE TO OFFENSIVE WAR.

Force in the Towns Against Desperation in the Woods.

DESERTIONS BY THE VOLUNTEERS.

An Indefinite Prolongation of the War Under Its Present Conditions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-The great difficulty in the way of a satisfactory review of the affairs of Cuba lies in their complex ity. So interwoven are wrongs and rights that it is impossible to do justice, full and complete, to one class without indicting hardship or even injustice on some interests that it is the duty of all governments to protect. The partisans of the various factions are generally conveniently blind to all but their own special interests, and would fain convince the stranger of the utter wickedness and bad faith of their opponents, so that the means of forming just appreciations can only be acquired by a very intimate acquaintance with the inhabitants and their mode of thought. To find a remedy for the anarchy in which Cuba has been for years plunged offers difficulties that can only be successfully grappled with by the highest order of statesmanship, unless the Gordian knot cut by some heroic policy. Ill armed and without proper supplies of ammunition, the Cubans from the outset of the war were unable to meet the Spanish army in the open field, and it was necessity as much as choice that induced them to abandon regular operations and have recourse to guerilla warfare, for which the difficult nature of the country affords unusual facilities. The want of military education among the Cuban chiefs, as well as the discouragement of constant failure in important operations, led the insurgents to limit their efforts to a strictly defensive attitude. This mistaken policy soon reduced them to the greatest misery and the want of even the most common necessaries of life. Those who survived this defensive policy wandered about like famished wolves, and, driven by want, they began a series of attacks on the towns in the possession of the Spaniards. An amount of success scarcely looked for attended these offensive operations. It was soon discovered that not alone were munitions and provisions obtained in these expeditions, but that the Spanish forces, harassed by their efforts to defend extensive lines, were no longer able to carry on the active offensive operations from which the Cubans had suffered so much in the first period of the war. The discontent, too, of the Cuban population was intensified by the necessary rigor of the precautionary measures taken by the garrisons and the interruption and loss caused by the enterprises of the insurgents. Up to this time it had been comparatively safe to be loyal to Spain, and that large mass or the population which is indifferent to political questions, and only desires security, had ranged itself under the Spanish flag. The new policy of the insurgents changed the situation. It was now necessary to fight and suffer, and a large number of the volunteers began to think they might as well fight for Cuba as for Spain. Relans were established between the outlying volunteer posts and the insurgents. The result has been Since January, 1873, more than 2,000 volunteers have deserted, with arms and munitions. The gravity of this disaffection will be understood when it is considered that, without these irregulars, the Spanish troops could scarcely carry on the war. The volunteers seldom show much stomach for fighting, yet the services they render as scouts and guides are of the first importance. It must be kept well in mind that in Cubs there are two classes of volunteers, the Cuban and Spanish. The latter are best known to the world by their insubordination and bloodthirstiness. Their fame rests on the massacre of unoffending spectators in the Havana theatres and the cold-blooded assassination of schoolboys. up to the present their patriotism has not been

sufficiently pronounced to induce them to take the field against the insurgents. The Cuban volunteers, on the contrary, are chiefly recruited from the peasantry or small farmers, tos hombres del pampo, as they are called, and act as irregular troops, doing the sconting and really the most effective part of the fighting against their countrymen. For the most part they are ex-rebels, or men who have surrendered and been pardoned on condition of serving as soldiers. They are very badly paid and worse treated by the Spanish authorities, who look on them with dislike and suspicion at the same time that they are used to hunt down the insurgents on all occasions. They serve, however, more from fear than from love, and the majority are in sympathy while a large proportion are even in direct communication with the insurgents, whom they supply with provisions and ammunition. During first years of the war these men believed that it was impossible to resist the Spaniards, and, desiring the restoration of peace, they really fought bitterly against their late comrades; but the illthe conviction that has now taken root in the Cuban mind that Spain cannot put down the insurrection induce them to throw in their fortunes with their fellow countrymen, whom they have vainly striven to conquer. If the disaffection should continue to spread, and the whole or the majority of the Cuban volunteers armed and equipped by Spain should throw themselves into the struggle, the success of the Cuban revolution would be assured. The reinforcements already drawn from this source during the current year and the successful landing of two distinct expeditions have placed the insurgents in a position to carry on the war with vigor for the next four years. The chief difficulty in the beginning was the want of arms and ammunition. This, combined with ignorance of the most primary rules of war, made the Cubans an easy prey for their enemies. Now the conditions are changed, as the Cubans are now the veterans, while the Spanish regiments are largely made up of recruits. It is estimated by the Spanish staff that more than 6,000 officers and over 100,000 soldiers have perished during the war. As the number of disabled and discharged has to be added to these figures it may be judged that the Spanish Army is largely composed of raw material. It re-mains to be seen whether Spain will continue to supply the never-ceasing demands for men to replace the fallen; but it is probable that if the armed volunteers continue to abandon the Spanish flag all the sacrifices that Spain may make in the end will prove uscless. The insurgents depend more on the dishearten-

ing effects of this mortality to terminate the war than on driving the Spaniards away by force of arms. They believe that as St. Domingo was abandoned because it was found impossible to dispose of an enemy who would neither fight decisive battles nor lay down their arms, so Spain will eventually become convinced of the uselessness of the sacrifices she is now making. Whether this reasoning will prove correct remains to be seen, but it is certain that Spain can only put down the insurrection by immense sacrifices of men and money. Indeed, owing to the extremely difficult nature of the country, it is open to doubt whether she could put down the insurgents at present in the field within ten years. The Eastern Department is almost wholly jost to Spain, as her power is only respected within her camps and forts. In the open country everything has been laid waste, and the insurgent bands wander about from plantation to plantation in search of food

the burning of the plantations, but from their point or view the burning is defensible, and even necessary. They argue that so long as the Span lards find it profitable to remain in Cuba the war will be continued, but that if the Spanish nation was compelled to find the money as well as the men hostilities would soon cease. The chief sources of revenue are the sugar and coffee industries, and therefore the Cubans burn down the crops and the mills so that neither profit nor revenue may accrue to the Spaniards. There is also the additional reason that every abandoned plantation becomes a magazine of provisions to the Cubans, as owing to the wonderful fertility of the soil, the crops grow year after year, though in diminished quantities, without care from the hand of man. It is owing, in great part, to this peculiar fecundity that the insurrection has been able to survive the crushing blows indicted in the first years of the war. Every effort was made, and continues to be made, to de stroy the means of subsistence of the insurgents; but it is simply loss of time. It is true that temporary inconvenience may sometimes be caused by cutting down the banana trees and burning the sugar canes; but all these grow again, better and richerior their temporary destruction. The varieties of root food, the yam, cassava, sweet potatoes, &c., are very numerous, and as they grow for years without care, and many of them are in an absolutely wild state, the supply of provisions is not likely ever to give out. These are supplemented by beans and other vegetables of quick growth. In order to prevent in future even temporary want, the Cuban government has given orders for the camps and in the recesses of the woods, so that, in case of retreat, the forces may always find an ample supply of food at hand. In fact, steps are being taken to sustain the war indefinitely, if the Spaniards persist in holding the island. The policy of destroying the plantations and towns be more rigorously carried out than ever, so that no Spanish settlement may exist in the interior. This policy is the result of the experience drawn from the offensive operations in the beginning of the year, which have led to the abandonment of many posts and small towns in the interior by the Spaniards, who for safety have been obliged to concentrate their forces, and are almost wholly on the defensive. The military aspect of the Cuban struggle has this year undergone a most unfavorable change so far as Spanish interests are concerned. In nearly all the important engagements the Cubans have been victorious. The want of artiflery prevents the insurgents gathering all the advantages of their successes, as, once the Spanish troops take refuge in their forts and fortifications, they are practically unassallable by men unprovided with cannon. It is owing to this circumstance that the utmost valor on the part of the Cubans fails to give the results we naturally look or, while the great numerical superiority of the Spanish army enables the authorities to conceal their losses, which are never made known when it can be avoided. No reliance whatever can be placed on the reports of Spanish officers as exhibited to the public; they are in all cases doctored

Perhaps the most threatening feature of the present situation are the uneasiness and discontent of the slave population, which in some instances has exhibited itself in attempts to burn done large districts-attempts that in part have been successful. There is little doubt but that the slaves have been instigated to commit these acts by the Cuban laborantes, as there seems to be a settled determination to reduce Cuba to a desert state rather than allow the Spaniards to profit by the great wealth of a further development of the policy of destruction. The idea of carrying the war into the Western Department has certainly been seriously entertained by Cespedes and the Cuban generals, for, although the ground is not so favorable for guerilla operaons, the amount of damage that could be inflicted on Spanish interests would be much greater than the injury now caused by the war.

Should the insurgents be able to put their plans

into operation the present pleasant state of affairs in the Western Department is likely to come soon to an end, as the continued prosperity of trade in that department is contingent on the absolute submission of the slaves. The indications are that this cannot be depended on, as, were the restrainsurrection would in all probability immediately follow. However, the immediate future of Cuba depends on the action of the Cuban volunteers in the Spanish service. Should the movement of de-

party struggles in Cuba, which under other forms of government were unknown. Indeed, so badly have affairs, both political and military, gone dur ing the past year that the best informed Spaniards look on the island as lost to Spain. It would be much better for Spain if the government had the courage to make arrangements either with the insurgents or some to reign Power to sell the island, and so terminate a war that in all probability will drag on indefinitely, unless some compromise is effected. So long as the Cubans are not recognized as belligerents by one of the great Powers they can never succeed in establishing their independence, or even in driving the Spaniards from any of the important coast towns. On the other hand the Spaniards cannot hope to put down the insurrection except after years of war, and at the expenses of sacrifices of men and money which Spain cannot make without incurring absolute ruin. The sale of the island would enable the Spanish Treasury to meet the most pressing demands of creditors, and would give Spain a new start in the vorid. It would confer great advantages on the nation, while the holding of Cuba is of profit only to individuals, and a source of loss both in men and

money to the nation. The abolition of slavery in Cuba cannot be long lelayed. The result will certainly not be beneficial to the slave-holding classes. No amount of remu neration could induce any human being to work as the slaves and coolies are forced to labor under the whip of the taskmaker, and the island will assuredly become less valuable to the Spaniards. But even were the island emancipated from Spanish rule the social question would remain one of extreme difficulty, owing to the mixture of races. At present no trouble is experienced in the Cuban camp from this circumstance; but the more intelligent Cubans are by no means sare that if the common bend which unites the Cubans against Spain were severed the same harmony would continue to prevail. The colored people are too numerous to submit to the domination of the intelligent white population. So there would arise, in all probability, constant struggles for supremacy if order were not secured by some powerful neighbor. This conviction has grown so strong among the partisans of Cuban independence that the party originally in favor of establishing a separate and independent republic in Cuba has dwindled down to a few men, while the immense majority are in favor of securing a well ordered liberty by sannexation to the United States as the only solution that can restore peace and prosperity to the the whip of the taskmaker, and the island will as-

SCOTIA'S SAINT.

St. Andrew and His Votaries in the Land o' Cakes-Celebration in His Honor Here.

natives, that the saint of "Ireland's green isle" "was a gentleman and came of decent people." It dare not be implied that St. Andrew was refined in instinct, or came of a poorer stock than St. Patrick. From comparison of their work, howthat St. Andrew was the more energetic, or that St. Patrick had as hard a task in Ireland as his "sainted brother in the faith" had in the many countries where he labored. It is a sorry task to elevate one saint at the expense of the other, and so let it be assumed that the Celts were as steadfast to their paganism in the time of the snakes as they have ever been to other things at modern periods. Thus our saints are both saved, though Ireland is sacrificed to the necessity. If any earnest Christian Irishman is displeased at the remedy that has been adopted for the exigency of the writer, why be may even scandalize St. Patrick. Ireland's pagan sons or her Christian saint, it is immaterial which, so as St. Andrew is saved from evil remark! This is the saint's anniversary, and he must be giorified. The Scot over his haggis, the Muscovite over his caviare, and men of many other nations over their peculiar feasis, would mutter curses at the Haral were St. Andrew slighted to-day. He is almost universally claimed as a patron, and his constituents are too formidable for their hostility to be courted. His reites have been scattered in the enthusiastic contention for them. Except that of the godly man's right arm, the place of deposit of none of St. Andrew's remains is khown. A plous monk, named Regulus or Rule, according to tradition, brought that precious relic to Scotland and placed it in a church which he built where the cathedral now is in the city of St. Andrews. Tradition has thus placed Scotland under the special protection of St. Andrew and made his arm her shield. Having given the traditions about that saint it is proper to tell what is certain about him. He was the brother of Simon Peter, and pursued with him the calling of a fisherman on the Lake of Genesareth. When John the Eaphist began to preach penance in the desert Andrew went to hear him. He maily became a disciple of St. John and went with him on his journeyings. On the day when St. John, seeing Jesus pass, cried out to his disciples, "Behold the Lamb of God!" Andrew and another of the group followed him. Jesus soon spoke to them, and immediately Andrew learned that he was the Messiah, and accepted his invitation to go with him on his mistion of mercy and salvation. hence Andrew is styled the Protociat, or First-called. Andrew soon brought Simon, his brother, to Jesus, who admitted him as a disciple and gave him the name of Peter. The brothers were not immediately called to constant attendance upon their Master, but for some time alternated their callings of fishers in the pure waters of the lakes and of fishers in the bure water of the Beath on the cross. St. Andrew's name is not noted in the Scriptures after the Asce it is immaterial which, so as St. Andrew is saved from evil remark! This is the saint's anniversary, and he must be giorified. The Scot over his hag

TROTTING AT FLEETWOOD PARK.

The track was in very fair condition for trotting yesterday afternoon and two trotting races came off. The attendance was small, the weather being rather too cold for this kind of sport, and as the horses want rest and recuperation, the past having been a severe season for most of them.

The first trot called yesterday was for a sweepstakes of \$300, between John Murphy's chestnut mare Louise, W. E. Weeks' sorrel gelding Sorrel Jake and M. McNamara's bay gelding Billy Lynch. Louise was the favorite previous to the start, but Sorrel Jake won the first heat so easily that the betting changed in his favor, and he then had the call over the field. Louise won the second heat by a head and she was again the lavorite over the field. The third was a dead heat, and the mare

depends on the action of the Cuban volunteers in the Spanish service. Should the movement of desertion continue and assume really large proportions the war will unquestionably spread westward, and affect even the country lying round Havana. At present the Cuban insurgents are prevented by their comparative inferiority in Dumbers from undertaking serious operations on a large scale; for under the most favorable circumstances it must be difficult for 10,000 men to make war against 200,000, which is the number of the combined army and volunteers the Spaniards claim to have in arms. Probably one-third of this force is made up of Cubans, who in secret are as much opposed to the Spaniards as are the insurgents. If these men could only make up their minds to throw themselves into the Cuban ranks the suppression of the insurrection would be rendered well night impossible. In the Bayamo and Manzanillo districts whole villages have passed over to the insurgents. The desertion of a few thousand men may not appear very important, but it must be remembered that these men are soldiers. Passing over to the enemy, they place themselves in a position from which they cannot retire, and must either succeed or be externial nated. Their adhesion, therefore, gives great moral and material aid to the insurrection.

In view of these circumstances it may safely be assumed that within the past 12 months the the conditions of the Cuban struggle have been seriously modified, and that Spain's chances or suppressing the insurrectionary movement have very much diminished. The establishment of the Republic in Spain has also caused divisions and party struggles in Cuba, which under other forms of government were unknown. Indeed, so badly

ing are the summaries:

FLEETWOOD PARK, Nov. 29.—Trotting—Sweepstakes \$300, mile heats, best three in five, in

harness.					
		1	6	1	1
J. Murphy's ch. m. Louise D. Pfiter's s. g. Sorrel Jake M. McNamara's b. g. Billy Lynch.					6
M. McNamara's b. g. Billy Lynch.	***** 4		u		-
	*** ** **				0
TIME.	*****				
	Half.			ME	
	1:21/4		2	:51	34
Second heat 3834	1:19		2	:45	36
Third heat 39%	1:19%	*	- 2	1.45	
	1:20%			100	12
Fifth heat 3834	1.18			ŧΥ	
SAME DAY Trotting match,			- 5	ea.	
best three in five, under the sade		mme	H	Car	ua,
			-		-
John Murphy named b. g Charley W. E. Weeks named g. g. Tanner	(*LGGE	. 2	2	99.19	
	Boy	. 1	1	2	2
TIME.					
Quarter.	Half.			Mi	In.
First heat 3614	1:15%		- 3	1:36	134
Second heat 37	1:14			3	
Third heat 37	1 115				1
Fourth heat 39					
Pourta neat	1:17		-	1:3	

PIGEON SHOOTING

A large party of gentlemen met at Port Morris yesterday to witness a pigeon match between the two crack amateurs, Mr. Ernest Staples and Mr. Louis Livingston, of Columbia county, New York, at 25 single birds, Ira Paine's best, for \$400, 1), shot, 21 yards rise, 50 yards boundary. The following is

Livingston, having no chance, gave up the match when Staples had shot at 20 birds.

A despatch from St. Albans states that Anson J. Crane. of Burlington, Assistant Collector of Internal Revenue for the Third district of Vermont, is reported to be a defaulter to the amount of \$17,000. His bondsmen, one of whom is Senator Edmunds, are amply able to make good the amount embezzled. Mr. Crane claims that Jewitt, a former Collector, embezzled the money.

APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR.

ALBANY, Nov. 29, 1873. Governor Dix has appointed Joseph Vanderbilt, of Northport, wreck master for the county of Suf-

THE ARMY.

Annual Report of Secretary of War General Belknap.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20, 1873. The annual report of the Secretary of War shows that the estimates for military purposes for year ending June 30, 1874, were \$33,826,378. The estimates for the same purpose for the year ending June 30, 1875, are \$54,410,722; the excess of the next year over the current one being \$584,344. The appropriation for military purposes for the year ending June 30, 1874, were \$32,917,971. It has een the custom of Congress from time to time to reduce the estimates of the department. have endeavored, aided by the officers of the department and of the army, to keep the expenditures within the limit prescribed by Congress; but experience has shown that the amounts previously asked for, based on data carefully prepared by chiefs of bureaus after ample const tion, were necessary for the management of the department. In addition to the usual estimates already made the following are submitted for such action as Congress may deem proper to take:—

action be taken toward the passage of a positive law to punish recruits who have deceived recruiting officers by ialsely swearing to their age or physical condition, and says:—"In my judgment he should be immediately jurned over to a proper tribunal, and the United States law officer in whose district a recruit may have committed an offence should be required to prosecute him for the faise oath he has taken and for the great expense he has given the government."

The practice, which prevailed to a considerable extent, of army officers visiting the seat of government during the session of Congress, attempting to influence legislation by interviewing members of Congress, and presenting business that should only be brought to their attention through the head of the Executive Department, became such a serious evil that on March 15, 1873, I caused an order to be issued directing that no officer, either active or retired, shall, directly or indirectly, without being called upon by proper authority, solicit, suggest or recommend action by members of Congress, for or against military affairs. The necessity for this order was apparent. Members of Congress have frequently brought the subject to my attention and bave made complaint, very justly, of the persistent efforts made with them personally to influence their views on legislation. The order, as it itself says, is not intended to preclude officers from illustrating or expounding a measure before Congress which may have received lavor or sanction of the President, the Secretary of War or the General of the Army. The experience of officers when so used is and will be viewed as valuable, but it was and is intended to restrain officers from urging their views in an improper manner upon members of Congress, and in consuming the time of those intrusted with the necessary legislation of the government. That order will be enforced so far as it lies within my power and authority to accomplish it.

He next refers to his tour of inspection through the Department of Texas in com

of the government. That order will be enforced so far as it lies within my power and authority to accomplish it.

He next refers to his tour of inspection through the Department of Texas in company with Lieutenant General Sheridan, last spring, and speaks in high terms of the efficiency and good conduct of the troops there stationed. At several of these posts, where both white and colored soldiers were stationed, the general good conduct and fine military appearance of all the troops composing the garrisons were prominent to a marked degree.

In section 24 of the act of July 15, 1870, the pay of officers of the army was established, and provision was made that the sums therein specified should be in full of all commutation of itsel, forage, servant hire and clothing, longevity rations and all allowances of every name and nature whatever, and should be paid monthly by the Paymaster. Further legislation is necessary to define the scope of this provision—whether it is intended to include certain things, such as transportation in kind of officers' servants and transportation in kind of officers' servants and transportation in the regulations belore its passage, but not held to be emoluments; or does it have reserence simply to money allowances then received by officers of the army.

During the past year the five Inspectors General of the army have made careful and thorough inspections in the Departments of the South, Texas, Missouri, Guli, Arizona, Dakota and Columbia, excepting Alaska. In the Departments of Arizona, Texas, Dakota and Columbia a thorough examination was made into the condition of the personnel and material of the army at all the remote and widely dispersed posts, stations and depots within the limits of those departments, with the exception of Alaska, embracing 117 military posts, garrisoned by 18 regiments of infantry, 17 companies of artillery and 8 regiments of cavairy.

Scrutinizing examinations have been made by the inspectors General of the accounts of officers for disbursing officers of this

Congress; and so apparent was it during the past fiscal year that the appropriation for barracks and quarters would not admit of any expenditure from that appropriation beyond the payment of rents of oilices and hire of quarters for troops, that it was found necessary early in the spring to entirely arrest any work upon repair and construction of barracks and quarters. Notwithstanding this necessary and sharp measure, which involved much inconvenience to troops crowded into buildings much in need of repair, or cantoned in tents and huts too much exposed to the inchemency of the weather, the liabilities have, to a small amount, exceeded the sum appropriated. The Secretary recommends that an allowance of \$10 per month be made to heutonants of the line detailed as acting assistant quartermasters.

the sum appropriated. The Secretary recommends that an allowance of \$10 per month be made to heutonants of the line detailed as acting assistant quariermastera.

Of the fity railroads, which, at the close of the war, under executive orders, purchased from this Department railroad material to the appraised value of over \$7,500,000, 30 of them have paid their debts in full. The remaining 20 are still in our debt to the amount of \$4,628,024. The total amount collected from these sales, with interest and expenses, has thus far been \$5,116,000.

He recommends the passage of a law which will enable the department to collect from the Post Office Department the postal earnings of several of these delinquent railroads. The bonds of the roads given at the time of the purchase, pledge them to use these earnings in hquidation of their debts, but they refuse and persistently neglect to give to the Postmaster General necessary formal orders to turn over the funds to this department.

He also recommends an appropriation to continue the present experiment of the artesian well at Fort D. A. Russell, believing a series of flowing wells to the people of Colorado, Wyoming, Montan and Dakota will be of importance upon the development of their material interests.

In regard to headstones for soldiers' graves in the national cemeteries he states that contracts have been awarded. Particular care has been taken to have these headstones permanent when once erected. The entire cost of these slabs and blocks under the contracts awarded, should they be entered into by the successful bidders, will amount to \$770,045.

He recommends that the \$100,000 appropriated by Congress for the erection of a depot at San Antonio be used to purchase or rent such posts in Texas as may be found actually needed, there being no necessity to erect a depot at that point.

He also recommends an act to be passed authorizing the issue of tobacco to the enlisted men of the army as a component part of the army ration, as near as may be in amount equal to that autho

by State authority. In view of the provisions of more recent acts of Congress, requiring the Secretary of War to maintain a supervision over the location and construction of bridges crossing navigable waters of the United States, in order that the interests of navigation shall be protected, I feel it my duty to invite the attention of Congress to this subject, and to suggest such general legislation as may be deemed necessary for the preservation of the great natural channels of commerce. In this connection the Secretary recommends that the act authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Arkunsas River at Little Rock, Ark., approved May 31, 1872, be repealed, for the reason that a bridge constructed in compliance with its terms would materially obstruct and impair the navigation of the river.

The survey of the lakes has been continued with

The survey of the lakes has been continued with success during the season.

The survey of Lake Michigan has been pushed forward nearly to completion, and that of the St. Lawrence River has been extended nearly to Lake Ontario. Other portions of the survey are in satisfactory progress,

The commission appointed by the President to examine and report upon a system of irrigation in the San Joaquin and Sucramento valleys, in California, met and organized in San Francisco in May, and proceeded at once to examine the valleys in question and the streams emptying into them. At the end of June they had made satisfactory progress. They are still engaged in the collection of information to enable them to render a null report upon the subject of their investigation.

At the end of June they had made satisfactory progress. They are still engaged in the collection of information to enable them to render a full report upon the subject of their investigation.

Reierring to the report of the Chief of Ordnance calling attention to the arguments invorting a repeal of the law prohibiting promotions in the Ordnance Corps, the Secretary says:—

"Their claims to promotion appeal strongly to the attention of Congress."

A board of experienced officers, of which General A. H. Terry was president, was convened in September, 1872, for the selection of a breech-loading system for the muskets and carbines of the military service. After an exhaustive trial of all the systems presented, the Board selected the Springheid breech-loading system as the one of all those brought before it which is best calculated to meet the demands of our military service. The report of the board was approved, and the Springheid system of breech-loader will henceforth be used for muskets and carbines of the army. At the same time the calibre of all small arms for the service—rifles, carbines and revolvers—has been fixed at 4 5-100 of an inch. It is now a question of grave importance whether new arms of the accepted system shail not be made at once in sufficient quantities for a reserve supply in case of war, and to this end an appropriation of \$500,000 has been asked for the next fiscal year for the manufacture, together with the materials now on hand, of about 35,000 arms.

The annual appropriation of \$200,000 for arming and equipping the militia, an amount fixed by Congress during the early part of the century is now found inadequate, by reason of the great increase of the population since the passage of the increased in a manner proportioned to the increase of the population since the passage of the increased in a manner proportioned to the increase of the population of the defence of our principal seabourd cities from a tack in case of war with a naval Power, is a subject demanding the earnest attention of con

be required for the fortifications which will be ready by the 30th of June, 1874. This amount is not embraced in the regular estimates of appropriations for the army, but it is a subject of great importance, and the question of this appropriation is respectually submitted.

The heavy rified guns selected for fabrication and test, under the net approved June 6, 1872, are now in progress of manufacture and will be completed during the winter. Valuable information and experience of these guns the result most prabby leading to the early adoption of an effective ride of suitable calibre for the service of the service o

the head of the department, to sign requisitions and other papers deemed necessary for immediate signature.

In conclusion he refers to the fact that by joint resolution of Congress the Secretary of War was required to appoint a competent person to arrange and prepare for publication official documents relating to the rebellion and operations of the army during the war, and to submit a plan of said publication and estimates of the cost thereof to Congress at its then next session. A person was appointed to assume this work, who was to receive a compensation of \$2,500 per annum. Although the appointment was made at the time, no acceptance was filed and no action was taken toward the larrangement and publication of the records. As the appointment under previous legislation cannot now be made, for the reason that the act prescribed that the payments should cease in two years after, its passage, this legislation should be revived and the Secretary of war authorized to make the appointment. This is a great national work of much historical value, and constant, daily observation and experience render it evident that early steps should be taken to collect and prepare these wast and important materials for publication.

General Sherman's Report. WASHINGTON, Nov. 29, 1873.

The following is the report of General Sher-

man:—

Headquarters of the Armt, }
Washington, Nov. 7, 1873.}
To Hon. W. W. Belenap, Secretary of War:—
Sir.—I have the honor herewith to submit a statement showing the organization and actual strength of enlisted men in the army, compiled from the official returns, up to the latest date, and invite your attention to the recapitulation, showing 25,535 enlisted men of cavalry, arthiery and injuntry and 3,970 non-combatants—the whole aggregating 20,505, or 405 less than the number, 30,000, limited by law. In the active regiments the number of men sick and on the necessary details about the posts will fully equal 25 per cent, so that about the posts will fully equal 25 per cent, so that the actual strength for military service does not exceed 19,652 men. In order that the regular army should fulfil its ardous duties on the irontier, as also form the

the actual strength for military service does not exceed 19,652 men.

In order that the regular army should fulfil its arduous duties on the frontier, as also form the model on which to shape the volunteers and milita force of the United States, I earnestly recommend that the Congress be asked to fix the limit of the enlisted force at such a figure as will give 30,000 for the regiments of the line, and to provide specifically for the non-combatant detachments, such as the Engineer battalion, the Ordmance Department, West Point detachments, such as the Engineer battalion, the Ordmance Department, ordnance and commissary sergeants, in the same manner as has been done for the hospital stewards.

The artillery regiments have an organization different from the infantry-viz., 12 batteries to a regiment; but of these, only one is equipped and instructed as a battery of artillery, the other 11 companies of each regiment being armed with muskets and instructed as intantry.

In order to simplify the organization to apply the new tactics (now approaching completion) to all arms of the service alike, with your approval, I have ordered the word "battery" apply, technically, to such only as are provided with horses and guns, and all others to be called "companies," some of the artillery officers think the act of July 28, 1866, entitles them to the name "battery," whether they have guns or not, and it might be well to ask a modification of the law so as to read—"battery or company" for the artillery regiments, to correspond with the words "troops or company" used for the cavalry in the same act.

The number of regimental commissioned officers on duty, or belonging to the several departments and divisions, number, in the aggregate, 1,532; present for duty, 1,234; absent on leave or detached, 298.

The foregoing does not include the 31 second lieutenants, recently appointed from civil life, now under orders to join their regiments.

I now enclose the annual reports of the division and department commanders, copies of which have

the Columbia, not yet received, are also sent.

No part of the army is under my immediate control, and the existing army regulations devolve on the Secretary of War, the actual command of the military peace establishment and all responsibility thereof, so that I forbear making any further recommendations or report. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN, General.

RESIGNATION OF SENATOR CASSERLY.

SAN FRANCISCO, NOV. 29, 1873. The following letter was received this after-

To Hon. Newton Booth, Governor of California, &c.;—
Bear Sir.—I hereby resign my unexpired term in the Senate of the United States as Senator for California, this resignation to take effect immediately, so that the State Legislature, which meets on the list of next month, may fill the vacancy. As my intimate friends in the Senate well know, I have long desired to withdraw from that body, and at the same time to withdraw from that body, and at the same time to withdraw wholly from politics and political life. My duties on both sides of the Continent have demanded of me and have received so much attention as to generally impair my health and compel me to neglect my private affairs. The latter consideration is not a controlling one, but the condition of my health is such as to lead me to seriously doubt my strength to discharge the arduous duties of a Senator from California.

I have deferred carrying out my desire until the present time, when both objects may be accompished at once, and when the Legislature, just about to meet, may elect my successor. Very respectfully,

E. CASSERILIT.

Mr. Casserly led the majority of his party here in opposition to the ratiroad monopoly; but that

mr. Casecry led the majority of an party action opposition to the ratiroad monopoly; but that majority is in the minority in the Legislature, and might not have been able to effect his re-election in a triangular contest, with Booth on one side. The general opinion is that his resignation will operate invorably for Booth and disastrously to the schemes in the railroad interest as jaid by Bulta Orif, their chief political agont.